

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00198 231428Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0198

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, PLO, AG
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN VIEW OF ABOU DAOUD AFFAIR

REF: ALGIERS 0132, ALGIERS 0101, 76 ALGIERS2342 (NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES 19 JANUARY WITH
MOHAMED MEDJAD, DIRECTOR CONSULAR AND JURIDICAL AFFAIRS OF
FONMINISTRH, HE ALSO EXPRESSED OOA JURIDICAL VIEW OF ABOU DAOUD
AFFAIR.

2. MEDJAD STATED THAT ALTHOUGH FONMINISTRY WAS NOT CONSULTED,
AFFAIR WAS CUT AND DRIED: ABOU DAOUD WAS PALESTINIAN NATIONAL
TRAVELING ON A VALID IRAQI PASSPORT. FRENCH COURTS HAD RELEASED
HIM AND THEREFORE THERE WAS NO REASON TO DENY HIM ENTRY INTO
ALGERIA.

3. HE ADDED THAT NEITHER FRENCH NOR GERMAN EMBASSY HER HAD
APPROACHED GOA ABOUT ABOU DAOUD CASE. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID,
ALGERIA HAD NO EXTRADITION TREATY WITH RFA. HE SAID ALGERIA
DID HAVE EXTRADITION TREATY WITH GOF, BUT THAT
MANNER IN WHICH FRENCH INTERPRETED TREATY WAS
SO ONE-SIDED THAT IT HAD LITTLE MEANING IN ANY CASE.

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(SUBSEQUENTLY BOTH GERMAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS HERE
CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAD NOT TAKEN UP ABOU DAOUD AFFAIR
WITH GOA AT ANY LEVEL.)

4. COMMENT: ABOU DAOUD AFFAIR CAME AT TIME WHEN
ALGERIAN IMAGE AS RADICAL ARAB STATE HAD GROWN SOMEWHAT
TRANISHED. ALGERIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON DIPLOMACY

AFTER BRIEF SAMPLING OF WATERS CAUSED UNFAVORABLE COMMENT
IN PALESTINIAN CIRCLES, NOTABLY BY PDFLP'S HAWATMEH
(76 ALGIERS 2342 NOTAL). LACK OF MILITANCY ON MIDEAST
MATTERS SEEMED TO BRING GOA'S CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES WITH
U.S., RADICAL ARABS' AMERICAN BETE NOIRE, MORE SHARPLY
INTO FOCUS.

5. THUS, BIG RECEPTION ACCORDED ABOU DAOUD HERE WOULD SEEM
TO REPRESENT GOA EFFORT TO COVER ITS LACK OF RADICALISM ON
SUBSTANCE OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS WITH PROPAGANDA PLOY.
WE QUESTION, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH THIS GESTURE, WHICH COST
ALGERIANS PRACTICALLY NOTHING IN POLITICAL TERMS, HAS DON
MUCH TO RESTORE ALGERIAN PRESTIGE IN EYES OF THEIR RADICAL
BRETHREN. ALGERIA'S MIDLE EAST POLICY REMAINS RADICAL ON
SURFACE BUT CAUTIOUS AND MODERATE AT HEART, AND ARABS CAN RECOGNIZE
PROPAGANDA COVERUP AS WELL AS ANYONE. LYNE

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